

Application No. 09/728,670
Paper dated August 26, 2003
In reply to USPTO Correspondence of March 26, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 0702-001525

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the non-Final Office Action dated March 26, 2003.

The claims have been amended herewith to specify certain cysteine and polyethylene glycol substitutions which were deemed effective to overcome an inadequate written description rejection in a counterpart application hereto. The asserted inadequate written description rejection is the only rejection outstanding, therefore it is believed that the amendments herewith will overcome the rejection.

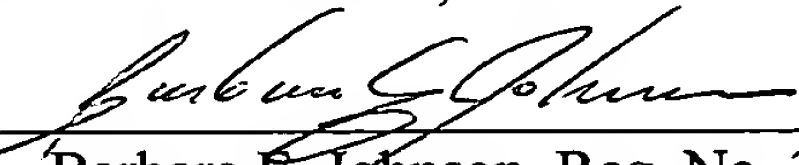
Support for the amendatory language, "due to the modification of the sequence with up to four amino acid substitutions consonant with the coding regions of *sak*ØC or *sak*42D," may be found for example at specification page 3, paragraph 2, and identifies relatively minor amino acid modifications which may occur without departing from the present invention. As the Examiner undoubtedly appreciates, "up to four" means "zero to four" according to United States claim construction, so these *sak*ØC or *sak*42D modifications need not necessarily be present according to claim 13.

Because the sole rejection is believed to have been overcome by claim amendments that have proved satisfactory for the same purpose in a counterpart case, the undersigned respectfully requests Examiner Pak to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if any issue remains for resolution prior to the allowance of the above-identified patent application.

Entry of this Amendment and allowance of claims 13-17 and 20-21 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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